

## OFFICIAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE CONTROL OF HONEY BEE DISEASES

### Article 3.4.2.1.

Countries wishing to implement an official programme for the control of any of the honey bee diseases mentioned in the *Code* should include in the programme the following:

- a) an organisation for permanent health surveillance;
- b) an official laboratory for diagnosis of the disease;
- c) notification of the disease or any suspicion thereof;
- d) *Veterinary Authority* responsibility for all beehives located in the country;
- e) annual random surveys to detect the potential presence of the disease within the honey bee population;
- f) a requirement for periodic inspection of all beehives for the disease;
- g) a requirement to either treat or destroy any beehives found to be infected with the disease;
- h) controls, as relevant according to the disease, over the movement of, and *international trade* in, honey bees, drones, brood combs, used equipment associated with beekeeping, honey, honey bee-collected pollen, propolis and royal jelly;
- i) measures for cleaning, *disinfection* and *disinsectisation* of apicultural equipment;
- j) rules precisely stating the requirements for issuing an *international veterinary certificate*.

### Article 3.4.2.2.

#### **Organisation for permanent official sanitary surveillance of apiaries**

Permanent official sanitary surveillance of apiaries should be under the authority of the *Veterinary Administration* and should be performed either by representatives of the *Veterinary Authority* or by representatives of an approved organisation, with the possible assistance of bee-keepers specially trained to qualify as 'health inspectors and advisers'.

The official surveillance service thus established should be entrusted with the following tasks:

- 1. visit apiaries:
  - a) annual visits during the most appropriate periods to detect the disease;
  - b) unexpected visits to apiaries where breeding or transport operations are carried out for trade or transfer to other zones within the country or to *importing countries*, or any other purpose whereby the disease could be spread, as well as to apiaries located in the vicinity;

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- c) special visits for sanitary surveillance to sectors where apiaries are producing stock or products for export purposes;
2. collect the samples required for the diagnosis of the disease and despatch of them to an official laboratory; the laboratory should have the mandatory obligation to communicate the results of its examinations within the shortest delay to the *Veterinary Authority*;
3. apply sanitary measures, comprising, in particular, treatment of colonies of bees, as well as *disinfection* of the equipment and possibly the destruction of infected or suspect colonies and of the contaminated equipment so as to ensure rapid eradication of any *outbreak* of a the disease.

### Article 3.4.2.3.

#### **Obligations of beekeepers**

Bee-keepers should be required to:

1. immediately notify the *Veterinary Authority* of any suspicion of the disease of bees in the apiary and in other apiaries in the vicinity;
2. not introduce into the apiary any bee (including larval stages) or apicultural material or product originating from another apiary unless health control has been previously performed by the *Veterinary Authority*;
3. apply special breeding and despatch techniques to ensure protection against any outside contamination, especially for the breeding and sending of queen honey bees and accompanying bees;
4. collect and send to the official laboratory, at the times specified by the legislation applicable to the disease, samples from breeding material, brood-combs, queen-bees and bees (including possibly separately raised accompanying bees), as relevant.

### Article 3.4.2.4.

#### **Recommendations concerning sanitation and disinfection of apicultural equipment**

*Veterinary Administrations* should regulate the use of products and means for sanitation and *disinfection* of apicultural equipment, taking into account the following guidelines.

1. Any apicultural equipment which has been recognised as being infected by the disease should be subjected to sanitary measures ensuring the elimination of pathogens.
2. In all cases, these measures comprise the initial cleaning and scraping of the equipment, followed by sanitation or *disinfection* according to the disease concerned.
3. The kind of equipment (hives, small hives, combs, extractor, small equipment, appliances for handling or storage) shall also be taken into account in the choice of procedures to be applied.
4. Infected or contaminated equipment which cannot be subjected to the above-mentioned measures must be destroyed, preferably by burning.

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5. The products and means used for sanitation and *disinfection* shall be recognised as being effective by the *Veterinary Administration* and should be used in such a manner as to exclude any risk of soiling the equipment which could eventually affect the health of honey bees or adulterate the products of the hive.
6. When these procedures are not performed, the products shall be kept away from the bees and sheltered from any contact with apicultural equipment and products.
7. Waste water from the cleaning, sanitation and *disinfection* of apicultural equipment shall be kept away from the bees at all times and disposed of in a sewer or in an unused well.

### Article 3.4.2.5.

#### **Preparation of international veterinary certificates for export**

*International veterinary certificates* relating to honey bees, drones, brood combs, used equipment associated with beekeeping, honey, honey bee-collected pollen, propolis and royal jelly should be prepared in accordance with the principles of certification provided for in Chapter 1.2.2.

Model *international veterinary certificates* are presented in Part 4 of the *Code*.